



STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE CIVIL SERVICE
LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS
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June 24, 2011

Mr. N. Sundiata Haley
Haley & McKee, LLC
650 Poydras Street, Suite 2615
New Orleans, LA 70130

Re: Ethics Board Docket No. 2011-691

Dear Mr. Haley:

The Louisiana Board of Ethics, at its June 17, 2011 meeting, considered your request for an advisory opinion as to the propriety of Gentry Major being employed with Veolia Transportation Services, Inc., while Barbara Major is serving on the Board of Commissioners for the Regional Transit Authority (RTA). The RTA is a political subdivision of the State of Louisiana authorized to provide transportation services in Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard, and St. Tammany parishes. The RTA is governed by a Board of Commissioners appointed by the Mayor of New Orleans and the Chief Executive Officer of the other member parishes.

The RTA has contracted with Veolia Transportation Services, Inc. which is a private corporation to provide management services for the day to day operations of the agency. A member of the Board of Commissioners for the RTA, Barbara Major, has a son, Gentry Major, who is an employee of Veolia. Gentry Major and has a two-year assignment to work on the rebuilding of streetcars. Gentry Major is not a director or officer of Veolia, nor does he have any ownership interest in Veolia.

The Board concluded and instructed me to inform that the Code of Governmental Ethics prohibits Gentry Major from providing the above-described services for Veolia and RTA while his mother is serving on the Board of Commissioners for the RTA. Section 1113B prohibits an appointed member of any board or commission, **member of his immediate family**, or legal entity in which he has a substantial economic interest shall bid on or enter into or **be in any way interested** in any contract, subcontract, or other transaction which is under the supervision or jurisdiction of the agency of such appointed member. Since Gentry Major is providing services to Veolia pursuant to its contract with the RTA, he is "in any way interested" in a contract under the supervision and jurisdiction of his mother's agency, the Board of Commissioners of the RTA.

EB Docket No. 2011-691

June 24, 2011

Page 2 of 2

This advisory opinion is based solely on the facts as set forth herein. Changes to the facts as presented may result in a different application of the provisions of the Code of Ethics. The Board issues no opinion as to past conduct or laws other than the Code of Governmental Ethics. If you have any questions, please contact me at (225) 219-5600 or (800) 842-6630.

Sincerely,

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Alesia M. Ardoin".

Alesia M. Ardoin

For the Board